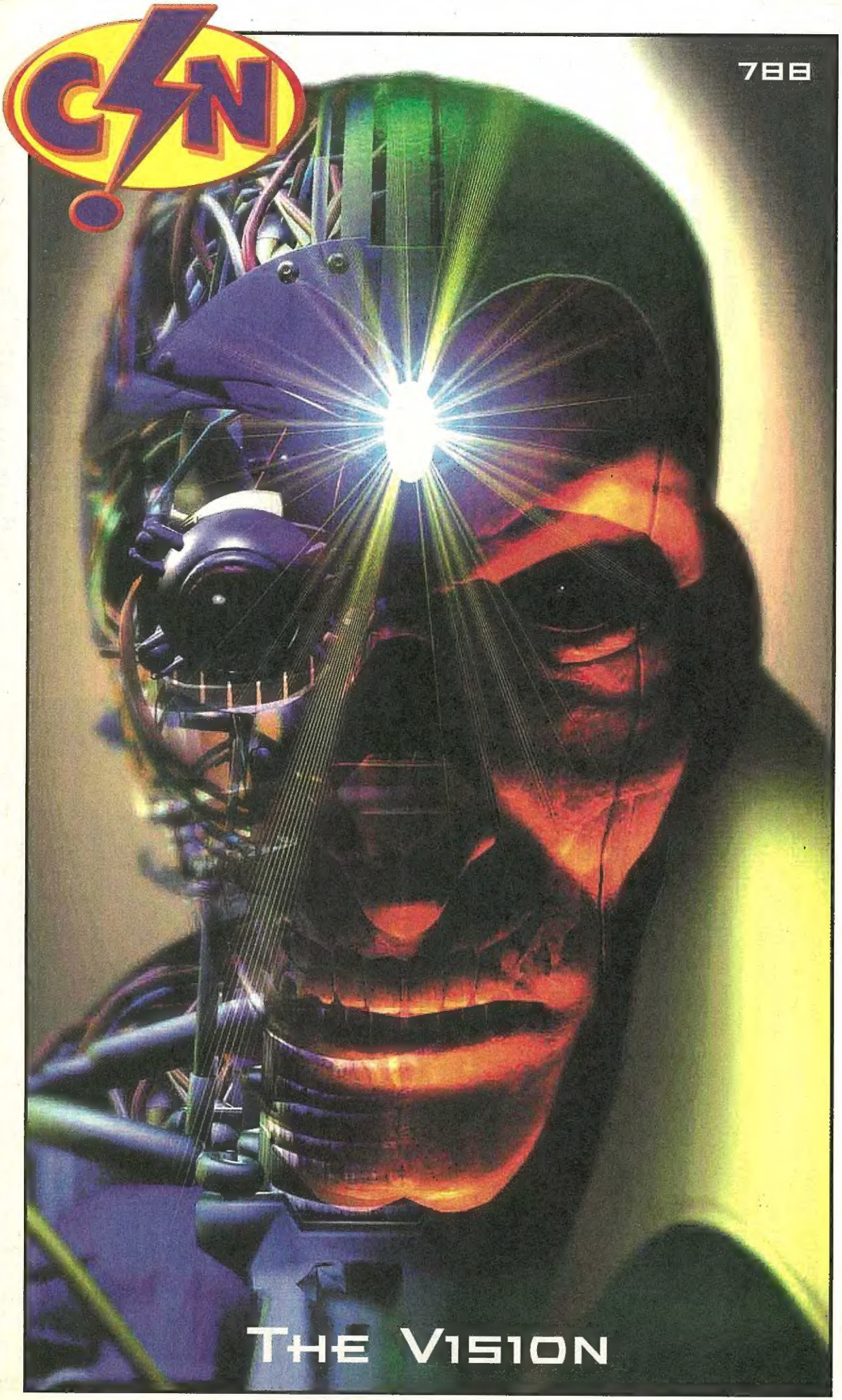
C!N
788
THE VISION

Johns Works in Avengers-Assembler Language

Someone new joins ***The Avengers*** in August—someone who's put in more than three years with another super-team... a team he has no plans to leave even when he joins Marvel's pre-eminent supergroup. So what amazing powers does this new person have, that two superteams are proud to have him a part of their ranks?

Well, he can tell a *great* story!

Geoff Johns, veteran writer of DC's ***JSA*** for more than three years, is assuming the helm of ***The Avengers*** beginning with the fifty-seventh issue. He's *not* giving up the ***JSA***, though; instead, he's adding the Avengers to his monthly workload that already includes ***JSA***, ***The Flash***, and ***Hawkman***... and as if that's not enough to keep any writer busy, he's also kicking off his tenure on ***The Avengers*** with a second book, a four-part ***Vision*** miniseries!

When *Kurt Busiek* announced his plans to leave ***The Avengers***, there was a great deal of speculation as to who might follow him on the series. Editor *Tom Brevoort* already knew who he wanted, though. "Tom called me up and asked me if I was interested," Johns said. "So I did a pitch and we got started. There were certain characters I wanted to use, and Tom pretty much said go for it. Black Panther, the Falcon, Ant-Man and She-Hulk are all coming on board. I've planned a pretty extensive character arc for everyone on the team. I know what they'll be involved in, and how some of them might leave...or worse."

Did Johns feel any pressure, following Busiek's high-profile fifty-six issue run? "Of course there's pressure, mostly from myself because I'm such a big fan of Kurt's run." Once he was tapped for the series, however, Johns wasn't shy about making the book his own—complete with membership changes right off the bat. "After the initial storyline and roster shake-up, I'm going to be bringing everything down to Earth for awhile. There'll be a few new members coming aboard next year and a big change in politics that will lead to a pretty horrific turn of events. The Avengers, to me, have all these alpha-personalities on the team. They're all leaders—so this will spark a lot of friction, and the team's going to need to pull itself together fast to take on the threats that are coming up.

"Everyone thinks they're right—and in a way, they are. With all the 'new blood' on board, we'll be seeing new relationships develop, old ones change—it's all about character interaction. It's going to be a very different book than *JSA*—because there's a different theme working here. With *JSA*, you have legacy."

Following Marvel's limited-information lead, Johns remains mum about details of his upcoming storylines. "I really want to keep it quiet, with Marvel's new Previews—like them or hate them—it allows me to actually *surprise* you. Instead of waiting for the next storyline already solicited, you'll be waiting for the next *issue*. I will say that we have some stuff focusing on the new crew in the first half of the year."

Johns did offer a little bit of a teaser for fans curious to see what he has in mind. "The first four issues is an arc called 'World Trust'—this will be a transition into our new direction and the 'new' team will be in place afterwards." Will the new team be more cosmic in focus, or more Earth-directed? "Both. I'm starting with a more 'cosmic' threat...the capitol city of every country on Earth disappears. The governments of the world have basically been yanked up and taken away—a cosmic force behind it...in a way. After this, we'll be staying on the ground for a good long while."Readers wondering how Johns' Avengers will differ from his JSA "will find out in the first arc what makes them different from everyone else."

With a new crew coming on board, does that mean that veteran members like Captain America, Iron Man, and Thor will be stepping out of the picture? "Captain America and Iron Man will definitely be here to stay. Thor...we'll see." Does this mean that Johns isn't a Thor fan? "I have really grown to *love* Thor after reading the early issues, doing research, but his role on the team, if any, won't be clear until early next year."

Many writers have noted that the "star Avengers" like Cap and Iron Man can be more of a challenge to write, since they're involved in their own solo adventures every month that sometimes contradict what's happening in the Avengers. Does the current reinvention of such heroes Captain America and Iron Man in their own series create new challenges? "Captain America's new series has a very "real world' approach, which is cool, but it doesn't affect the way I portray him in Avengers. Iron Man is the same way. His idenitity was outed, but beyond that, there's nothing I have to rack my brain over. Priest and I had a long discussion about Black Panther, and he's actually one of the members I'm most excited about. Thor, with his new found power, is another story...which we'll be getting to, of course."

As readers of *CSN* know, *Kurt Busiek* and *George Pérez* are in the middle of preparing a massive ***JLA/Avengers*** crossover story that will debut late this year or early next year. Now that the same writer is handling both the Avengers and the ***JSA***, is there any chance of a super-team followup involving those group. "No plans for ***Avengers/JSA***," Johns said. (Too bad!)

Vision & Revision

In the same month that Johns' first issue of ***Avengers*** debuts, he also launches the four-part ***Avengers Icons: Vision*** series done with artists *Ivan Reis*, *Joe Pimentel*, and cover artist *Brian Haberlin*, whose stunning computer visuals perfectly convey the man/machine dichotomy of the Vision. Did Johns plan for both books to appear in the same month—perhaps as part of a linked storyline? "In a way, the timing just worked out a little more perfect than we had planned. It's already written and Ivan has the first two issues about done. They're beautiful. The series doesn't coordinate with ***The Avengers***, but the effects it has on the Vision will spill over."

The Vision touches on the core identity of the enigmatic android. "This series is something I'll be able to give my Mom—and after she reads it, she'll know who the Vision is. On one hand, it's continuity-light; on the other hand, it fits right in. I had a great time boiling this guy down back to the original 'ghost in the machine.'

"I think *Roy Thomas* summed it up best in 'Even an Android Can Cry.' He's cold to the touch, yet he can be very warm. He understands he's not human, yet cares more about humans than most others do. He's a paradox—as I say somewhere in the series—He's not quite human, much more than a machine.

"I think we could learn a lot about being human from the Vision. I also don't think you want to meet the guy in a dark alley—or anywhere for that matter. He can be very intimidating, hard to read, seem distant and cold—and he has the power to break your arm with a simple snap of his wrist, or phase his hand into your brain and fry every synapse inside.

"As I said before, the Vision is a paradox—on some levels he's more human than your or I and on others—such as pain threshold—he isn't human at all."

While the series focuses on the contemporary Vision, Johns will touch somewhat on the character's past "in a way—you will get some views in 1939," he said.

Will the Vision's long-time romantic interest, the Scarlet Witch, play a part in the ***Vision*** series or in ***The Avengers***? "In the ***Vision***, no. It's very Vision-centered. He's the *only* hero in the book. Scarlet Witch *does* play a big role in ***The Avengers***. Many fans are either 'Scarlet Witch and Vision should *never* be back together' or 'ScarltetWitch and Vision *have* to be back together.' Something *is* going to happen. But don't jump to conclusions when it begins—because there are many twists and turns in store for the both of them."

Readers who want to be there when Johns assembles his Avengers for the first time will want to be sure they pay a visit to their local comic shop on August 28th, when ***Avengers #57*** (illustrated by *Kieron Dwyer & Rick Remender*) is scheduled for release. Johns' first Avenger (singular) project, ***Avengers Icons: The Vision #1***, premieres two weeks earlier, on August 14th.

BY CLIFF BIGGERS

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

CSNsider

Girls Just Want to Have Their Own Miniseries

CSNsider recently told you about the Gotham Girls miniseries that DC has added to the summer schedule—but the entire concept of Gotham Girls might be new to readers who don't spend much time on-line. So we asked Joan Hilty, editor of DC's animation-based comics, to explain what ***Gotham Girls*** is and how the series came to be.

First off, ***Gotham Girls*** is inspired by the ***Batman*** animated series rather than the current Batman DCU continuity. As Hilty sees it, that's part of the book's appeal. The Batman animation-inspired comics are remarkably accessible to readers of all ages, Hilty said, "because they're pure stand-alone adventure—you can pick any one issue up and get a start-to-finish story. Plus, it's Batman. Last but not least, it was truly a revolutionary animated series—the designs, the use of blacks to define space, the wide range of moods—and that's really stuck with fans." Obviously fans agree: while most animation-inspired comics are relegated to miniseries runs (either by design or through early cancellation),

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Batman: Gotham Adventures is well into its fifth year as a DC monthly.

While ***Gotham Girls*** is inspired by Batman animation, it's not inspired by television animation; instead, the concept first appeared on the 'net. "The webtoon on WB Online [gothamgirls.com] has been around for a while; [series writer] *Paul Storrie* was a fan, and approached the Bat-group about the possibility of a miniseries right around the time the book was moving over to me. So he pitched me, and I liked it, and so did everyone else."

The series features Catwoman, Poison Ivy, Harley Quinn, Batgirl, and Renee Montoya in a fast-paced race for a stolen vial of a mystery formula. Five female leads, five issues—it's amazing how the math works out, isn't it?

Once the story was approved, Hilty knew just who she wanted to supply the visuals. "I've wanted to work with [penciller] *Jennifer Graves* ever since she was a candidate for *Steve Gerber*'s ***Nevada*** miniseries up at Vertigo. She has a wonderful, fluid style that looks great both animated and non-animated. She did a bit of work for the Superman and Batman groups, and then we lost her to animation for a while—but she wanted to get back into comics... and now she's regretting it! Just kiddin', Jenn!

"People are starting to hear of [inker] *J. Bone* through his work over *Darwyn Cooke* in ***Spider-Man's Tangled Web,*** and the Oni books ***Alison Dare*** and ***Mutant, Texas.*** It's a great creative team all around."

The final member of the team is *Shane Glines,* who supplies the eye-catching cover art. "Shane is an amazing artist.," Hilty said. "He started out in animation working for *John Krisfaluci* of ***Ren & Stimpy,*** and went on to work for *Bruce Timm* on ***Superman, Batman,*** and ***Batman Beyond.*** In print he's done stuff for *Paul Dini*'s ***Jingle Belle,*** he's got a pin-up in *Darwyn Cooke*'s ***Catwoman*** project — just like Jenn, there's not *enough* of his stuff out there!" So when will fans get to see his work on a full story rather than on covers? "We have no specific plans *yet* post-***Gotham Girls,*** but I definitely hope to work with him more."

While DCU Batman storylines like "Bruce Wayne: Murderer/Fugitive" have a tremendous appeal to the Bat-fans, Hilty is pleased that books like Batman: Gotham Adventures and Gotham Girls are out there to offer new readers an entry point—and to offer veteran readers the sort of single-issue stories on which Batman's popularity was built through the Golden and Silver Ages.

"There will always need to be a gateway to Batman for kids and for new comics readers, and if I may torture the metaphor, these books are that gateway. I'm not knocking the continuity-based, mature-readers material of the regular ***Batman*** titles, but it's *so* important to have both that and the animated-style books."

Gotham Girls #1, a $2.25 comic, is scheduled for August 14th release.

A Very Animated Speaker

While we had *Joan Hilty* cornered, we also asked her about DC's expanding line of animation-inspired comics—a line built around some of the most popular features on the Cartoon Network, including ***Looney Tunes, The PowerPuff Girls,*** and ***Scooby-Doo.***

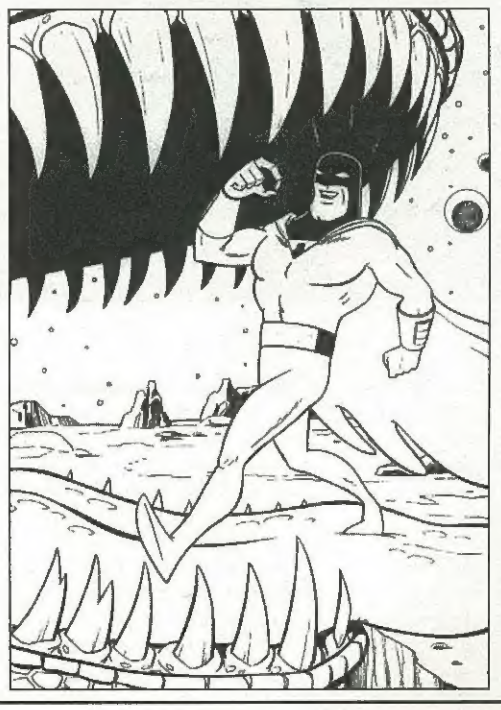
Hilty credits the success of the Cartoon Network in large part for the renewed interest in animated stories. "Cartoon Network has been totally breathing new life into mass market animation. Nickelodeon's a strong competitor. I feel like there's interesting stuff starting to happen with WB Animation and MTV Animation, too, after a down period. And you've got animated stuff becoming big-screen live-action, like ***Samurai Jack and Scooby-Doo*** and ***Undercover Brother.*** We're on the edge of renaissance, I think."

Many stores that participated in Free Comic Book Day reported strong reader interest in animation-inspired comics, leading many to wonder if there's an under-served market out there. "I'm excited that FCBD generated that kind of response. I just wish we as an industry could come up with a comparable long-term strategy... Humor/animated stuff gets the worst of it in a sales recession. Which is a shame, because you can accomplish so much with the format. It's *nuts* how much you can accomplish.

"The genre has been marginalized for obvious reasons. Foremost is the domination of the direct market and its narrow demographic. I also think comics is slow to catch onto all-ages trends that can be capitalized upon. We rely thematically on what's come before and on our own preferences as a bunch of twenty to fifty-year-olds. Which would be fine if we were making money hand over fist, but we're *not*, so it's an avenue for possible growth."

Sure to be one of the most popular animation-inspired comics from DC, ***The Samurai Jack Special*** marks the popular character's first appearance in comics. "***The Samurai Jack Special*** is an adaptation of the original movie—but it's Jack's origin story as only comics can tell it," Hilty said. "There are scenes you never saw in the movie, like Jack's birds-eye view of the futuristic city as he falls into it. There are double-page spreads with really lovely, detailed artwork—some of *Bill Wray*'s best work ever, I think."

Is this perhaps the first of a series of ***Samurai Jack*** comics? "If response to this first special is strong... well, you never know. The show's been optioned as both an animated- and live-action film, so it's got legs. People really seem to dig it. And of course, *Genndy Tartakovsky will* be involved with whatever we do. In addition to everything else he can do, he's a great comic storyteller."



Hilty is happy that several high-profile film projects are bringing new attention to their respective comic books. "In addition to ***Samurai Jack,*** we're releasing an adaptation of the ***Powerpuff Girls Movie*** on the day it opens. We'll see what the public response to all those projects is, and proceed accordingly. I personally love working with animation material and with animators. When I was considering this job and agonizing about moving from Vertigo, which also offers a totally unique editorial experience, that was a big selling point for me."

And of course, you can't talk about animation-inspired film stars without discussing the *original* Scooby gang. At the same time the live-action film brings readers to the comics, Hilty and her team of creators have launched their most ambitious ***Scooby-Doo*** project to date. "We've done occasional two and three-part stories in the animation books before, but never anything on this scale. It's a round-the-world mystery called 'The Dragon's Eye' written by *John Rozum,* who is one of the most versatile comics writers ever—he's written everything from ***X-Files*** to ***Powerpuff Girls*** to the current ***Midnight, Mass.*** miniseries over at Vertigo—which I developed with him when I was at the imprint. It's an eight-part story about the gang chasing a thief who's gathering all the far-flung pieces of an imperial Chinese jewel with truly dangerous mystical powers—and the chase runs through France, Russia, Syria, India, Japan and China. The artwork is by *Joe Staton* and *Horacio Ottolini,* really the best ***Scooby*** artwork we've ever published. It's basically ***Scooby-Doo*** by way of ***Tintin.***

"I hope we can collect it as a TPB eventually. I do a sixty-four-page reprint of ***Scooby-Doo*** stories every year, which does really well on newsstands, but we're still trying to figure out how to publish full-size TPBs that are economically viable both for us and for consumers. The comics TPB market is skewed in a certain direction, and it ain't towards parents and kids."

Hilty also stressed the importance of the ***Cartoon Cartoon*** series, which serves as a sort of "Showcase" for animation-inspired comics. "We're debuting new Cartoon Network series in the ***Cartoon Cartoon*** anthology all the time—***Grim & Evil*** and ***Codename Kids Next Door*** are the two most recent—and we may be creating something for the new WB show ***Mucha Lucha.*** But I'm starting to work on regular DC Universe projects as well, and I'm looking at ways to bring animation style over thataway.

While Archie Comics has found tremendous success with their line of digests, and Nickelodeon has ventured into magazines combining comics and non-comics material, Hilty doesn't see DC pursuing those options. "The way DC's business plan works, digests and magazines aren't economically viable for us. Archie Comics has the corner on the digest market, by dint of (a) having a different busi-

ness plan, and (b) having done it forever. So hopefully, like I said earlier, we'll be able to come up with a way of adapting our successful TPB program for the animation material."

Hilty acknowledges that there's a strong interest in manga/anime material right now, but she's unconvinced that this is a direction that DC should pursue with its animation-based comics. "WildStorm is doing some good work in anime/manga style, and of course DC and Marvel have done a handful of projects along those lines, but this goes back to what I said earlier about comics—American comics, anyway—being slow to catch on to trends. Anime and manga are institutions in Japan, but I feel like they've had their moment as the 'new thing' here, during which we didn't seize the day—and now they've settled into having a relatively small US fanbase that's loyal to long-established Japanese material. I've come to think that we're better off developing good material that's inspired by it, which, these days, includes everything from ***Powerpuff Girls*** to ***Doom Patrol***. We did do a great ***Space Ghost Coast to Coast*** story in manga style once. That's still one of my favorites."

If you're one of the millions of Cartoon Network fans who tune in to the network, why not expand your horizons and read a cartoon? Hilty and her creative teams offer new stories based on your favorite cartoons, each and every month!

2002 Is Doom's Day

With hundreds upon hundreds of comics offered each and every month, it can be tough for a new publisher to attract attention—but *Tim Tyler*, publisher of Doom Theater, has enlisted some enthusiastic support from people like *Tim Truman* as he prepares to launch such books as ***Engine***, ***Shadow Planet***, and ***Denizen***.

Truman, an old friend of Tyler's, has supplied the cover art for ***Denizen*** and "he also did an alternate cover for our first series, ***Engine***. it is written and illustrated by me, and is basically a fantasy tale of a great battle of good versus evil on a small, hidden world. it mixes Chinese action cinema, sci-fi, fantasy, and anime, all done in a *Jack Kirby*-ish kind of style. The backup is a Frankensteinian story of mine that basically takes off where *Mary Shelley*'s book ends....and takes the character on a series of quests. He isn't the Frankenstein people might instantly think of—more the 70's *Mike Ploog* version, but with creepy action and even Lovecraftian sci-fi thrown in."

Tyler is far from a novice when it comes to comics. "I am a Kubert School alumni, having left the school in '85. I actually knew *Tim Truman* before the Kubert School, having first met him at the Grimjack premiere party at the Americana Congress Hotel in '82, I think—he actually helped me through a rough time in my life..and steered me towards the Kubert School, and I will always be in debt to him for this kindness to me—now if i can ink a Grimjack tale, I could die a happy man!" he said with a laugh. "I've basically been working in independent comics ever since. i've done everything from inking ***Dreadstar*** at First Comics to inking ***Faust***, publishing the first two issues of ***Razor***, and self publishing a variety of my own characters, including Blood Reign, Devil-Jack, Hades, Cadaver, and others."

Tyler launched Doom Theatre because "I thought the time was right for fun, really cool concepts to be brought into comics. I basically tend to not cater to the masses, but publish comics that I'd love to see on the stands—comics that would make my heart beat a few beats faster if I were to walk in a shop and see the newest issue on the stands."

In addition to enlisting *Tim Truman* to supply cover art, "We also have *Mike Deodato Jr.* and *Dave Cockrum*, as well as Tim, rounding out the list of people who are helping us to launch this company."

Doom Theatre's first offering, ***Engine***, #1 should be in comic shops at about the same time as this issue. ***Shadow Planet*** and Denizen follow this fall, led off by the release of the ***Shadow Planet Preview Portfolio***, featuring nine 11" x 17"' art prints, featuring never-before-seen characters, including Denizen by *Tim Truman* and *Mike Deodato Jr.*; Blood Reign by *Dave Cockrum;* Ratsbane, Devil-Jack, and Hades by *Tim Tyler;* and Ravage by *Mike Boeckelmann*.

Witch Holiday Is Clugston-Major's Favorite?...

Like many of us, *Chynna Clugston-Major* is a real Halloween fan. She's also a talented comics creator whose human-interest comedy-drama Blue Monday has elicited praise from fans and pros. So it's probably not too surprising that she's chosen Halloween as the setting of her next ***Blue Monday*** project, ***Dead Man's Party***.

"Halloween is my favorite holiday," Clugston-Major said. "I love getting dressed up in some crazy costume and haunting the streets with my friends like a pack of drooling zombies. I wanted to put a little bit of that fun into the comics, particularly as things got a little serious in ***Lovecats***. This is gonna be a pure B-move psychotropic freak-out. It'll be unlike any ***Blue Monday*** comic that's come before—unless you count the fact that it's a pretty good time, a little bit goofy, and generally over-the-top, which are all things we have done, but you know..."

Clugston-Major has enlisted the aid of another spooky-story fan, *Dan Brereton*, to supply the back cover art, depicting Bleu and da gang in their Halloween regalia. "I really dig ***Blue Monday***," Brereton said, "but once a month, my daughter actually grapples with me over the Oni comps—she completely ignores my stuff till after she's found and devoured one of Chynna's books. I'm jazzed about doing a cover, though it would have been better to do the front, because then Lindsay might notice *my* work first for a change."

"I can't wait to see how Dan interprets the characters," Clugston-Major said. "We've had some pretty spectacular guest-covers in the past, but this will be the first time a painter has rendered these kids. Plus, no one can do the monster stuff like Dan. In comics, Halloween should just be *Dan Brereton* Day."

Oni editor-in-chief *Jamie Rich* pointed out that there's one more reason for fans to check out ***Dead Man's Party***: the book will feature the return of two of ***Blue Monday***'s most popular characters. "That's right—the Jesus Heads are making a return appearance! Chynna recently received one of the actual Jesus Heads in the mail from an anonymous source—could it be they mailed themselves?—and we took it as a sign. The Jesus Heads must return to the pages of ***Blue Monday***!"

When asked to explain what made her bring them back, Clugston-Major merely said, "I draw what the voices in my head tell me to draw. Be afraid. Very, very afraid..."

Blue Monday: Dead Man's Party, a thirty-two page oneshot, is scheduled for mid-October release.

Ins & Outs

Out, Not In: *Courtney Huddleston*, whose ***Decoy and Herobear/Decoy*** work was spotlighted recently in ***CSN***, was misidentified as female in a recent article. Penny-Farthing Press editor *David Ramirez* corrected our misconception, pointing out that Courtney is most certainly male—although he does have a daughter named Courtney, Ramirez said, so there *is* a female Courtney in the family... but it's Dad who's the creator of ***Decoy***. Our bad!...

Out! ***Fables #1***, the new *Bill Willingham*-created Vertigo series, has sold out of its entire first issue overprinting. To ensure that new readers can follow the storyline from the very beginning, DC has posted it online at the www.dccomics.com website. That's great news as far as Willingham is concerned. "I want as few impediments as possible towards creating lots of loyal ***Fables*** readers, so I'm happy DC is posting the complete first issue online for everyone to see, and more importantly to *read*," *Bill Willingham* said. "With the first issue sold out, this will encourage anyone who missed it to pick up the second issue and so on without being hopelessly left behind by the story in progress."

"The success of ***Fables #1*** is tremendously encouraging but no surprise to those of us who read the first few issues before they were released," *Bob Wayne*, DC's VP - Sales & Marketing, said. "We urge retailers to look at their orders and consider increases on upcoming issues, as this series is clearly gaining momentum."

In! The next generation of price guides debuts this month from Krause Publications—the folks who bring you the ***Comic Buyers' Guide***, the *other* comics weekly. ***The Standard Catalog of Comic Books*** is more than just a listing of issues and prices; instead, it supplements pricing information with collecting statistics and historical facts for more than 145,000 North American comic books, graphic novels and trade paperbacks. *John Jackson Miller*, *Maggie Thompson*, *Peter Bickford*, and *Brent Frankenhoff* have created more than a price guide—***The Standard Catalog of Comic Books*** offers fascinating info that makes this a great book to read as well as a handy book to reference. the book features, among other things, cover prices, publication dates, story titles, writer and artist names, 2200 different series reviews, original circulation figures, and oodles of photos. Coverage includes all English-language comic books published and offered for sale in North America from the beginning of the Golden Age to present that have been confirmed to exist—and that includes undergrounds and black and white comics that have been dropped from the Overstreet Guide in recent years.

"Consider us your support group," *John Jackson Miller* said. "We've put our lives into publishing ***Comic Buyer's Guide*** magazine, the 'ComicBase' CD-ROM and other utilities to help you make sense out of your collection. We think this ***Standard Catalog*** will go a long way to help."

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CSN's Top Twenty for August

3 Little Kittens #1

Jim Balent (W/A)

(Broadsword JUN022104 $2.95; also available in a deluxe edition (JUN022105, $19.99))

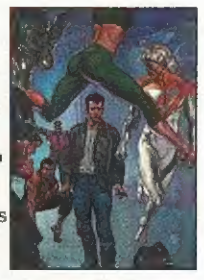
What's the Scoop?

One part ***Charlie's Angels,*** one part ***Catwoman***—shake well and serve cool!

Why Should You Care?

Jim Balent built his rep on that *other* feline fatale, so it's only appropriate that he should return to his roots with a turbocharged action-adventure a trio of kitty-cat she-spies.

Authority: Kev



Garth Ennis (W); Glenn Fabry (A)

(WildStorm/DC JUN020455 $4.95)

What's the Scoop?

When the U.S. government decides that the Authority has gone too far, they decide it's to take them out... and that's where Kevin Hawkins, aka Kev, enters the picture. But if Kev succeeds, the world might be in a lot more trouble than anyone ever anticipated!...

Why Should You Care?

Garth Ennis makes his WildStorm debut with this ***Authority*** oneshot that features incredible interior art by Glenn Fabry, best known for his outstanding Vertigo cover work. And of course, the existence of an Authority one-shot disproves those 'net rumors of ***Authority***'s untimely demise, huh?...

Avengers Undergoes a Re-Vision

Avengers #57

Geoff Johns (W); Kieron Dwyer & Rick Remender (A)

(Marvel JUN021726 $2.25; also available in a signed edition (JUN021926 $19.99))

Avengers Icons: Vision #1

Geoff Johns (W) Ivan Reis & Joe Pimentel (A)

(Marvel JUN021734 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Geoff Johns, the mastermind who has made ***JSA, Hawkman Flash*** critical and fan-faves, sticks his toe into Marvel waters with a pair of Avengers books—the flagship title (which he promptly reboots with a team change) and a solo miniseries starring the synthezoid superhero CPU.

Why Should You Care?

Johns is right in his element with the Avengers—a superteam title whose reputation has been built on equal parts action and characterization. Sure, it's sad to see Busiek go—but you couldn't ask for a more capable replacement! And those who dismiss peripheral miniseries as forgettable spinoffs will want to reconsider—after all, what better way to coordinate the mini and the main title than to put the same guy in charge of both? (And there's no worry about the ***Vision*** being overlooked—not with that stunner of a cover by Brian Haberlin!)

Batman: Black & White Vol 2 Over-Sized HC

Paul Dini, Chris Claremont, Steven T. Seagle, Kelley Puckett, Ty Templeton, Warren Ellis, John Byrne, Paul Pope, John Arcudi, Paul Levitz, Walter Simonson, Brian Azzarello, Howard Chaykin, Alan Brennert, Robert Kanigher, Dave Gibbons, Harlan Ellison, Tom Peyer, & Alan Grant (W); Alex Ross, Steve Rude, Mark Buckingham, Daniel Torres, Tim Sale, Marie Severin, Jim Lee, John Byrne, Paul Pope, Tony Salmons, Paul Rivoche, John Paul Leon, John Buscema, Eduardo Risso, Jordi Bernet, José Luis Garcia-López, Kyle Baker, Dave Gibbons, Gene Ha, Ronnie Del Carmen, Gene Colan, Tom Palmer, & Enrique Breccia (A)

(DC JUN020399 $39.95; also available in a signed edition (JUN022273 $99.99))

What's the Scoop?

Five new stories and sixteen black and white classics are presented in the same upscale oversized format as the original ***Batman: Black and White.***

Why Should You Care?

The short story *isn't* dead—as these twenty-one wonders aptly demonstrate. And this is the only place you'll ever see some of these creators' takes on the Dark Knight... alas!...

Big Daddy Danger #1

Adam Pollina (W); Adam Pollina & Tyson McAdoo (A)

(DC JUN020421 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

Superheroes and rasslin' have always had a lot in common, but never so much as in this wacky wrestling-superhero miniseries. Big Daddy Danger is more than a champion wrestler—he's the latest in a line of heroes carrying on America's fight for freedom against rogue lady wrestlers, aliens, and more. It's like a Jack Kirby rarebit dream!

Why Should You Care?

How impressive is ***Big Daddy Danger***? It's so impressive that Walt Disney Pictures has already bought the rights and is working on a film version of this offbeat series!

Bigg Time

Ty Templeton (W/A)

(Vertigo/DC JUN020475 $14.95)

What's the Scoop?

Having a guardian angel is supposed to be a good thing, right? Someone forgot to tell that to Lester Bigg's guardian angel Stavros—a sly devil of an angel who's been screwing with Les's life just for yuks. But now Les is on to the game... and it's time for Stavros to make amends!

Why Should You Care?

Ty Templeton, one of comics' underrated masters of dark humor whose ***Stig's Inferno*** is one of the field's great "lost classics," is back with an unforgettably warped look at society and success.

Call of Duty: The Wagon #1

Chuck Austen (W); Daniel Zezelj (A)

(Marvel JUN021705 $2.25)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel pays homage to the final third of the heroic triumvirate with this comic focusing on the Big Apple's EMS—all set against the backdrop of the Marvel Universe.

Why Should You Care?

Chuck Austen and Daniel Zezelj kick off the final Call of Duty miniseries—and all three parts will dovetail together this fall when Marvel launches ***The Call*** as an ongoing series. Don't come to the party late—follow the story that leads up to the story!

Fantastic Four #60

Mark Waid (W); Mike Wieringo & Karl Kesel (A)

(8/28 Marvel JUN021717 9¢; also available in a signed edition (JUN021924 $19.61))

What's the Scoop?

Mark Waid retools the World's Greatest Comics Magazine with a standalone story that takes the FF back to their roots.

Why Should You Care?

Marvel has so much confidence in this relaunch that they're offering it in color for *less* than a dime—so how can you afford *not* to give it a try?

Futurama/Simpsons Special: Crossover Crisis #1

Ian Boothby (W); James Lloyd & Bill Morrison (A)

(Bongo JUN022093 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

How in the world does this crossover work? We don't have the slightest idea... but the Bongo gang does, and that's what matters!

Why Should You Care?

The cast of two of television's most successful animated series meet for the first time in a story too weird for teevee, and you ask why you should care? Just rejoice and join in the fun!

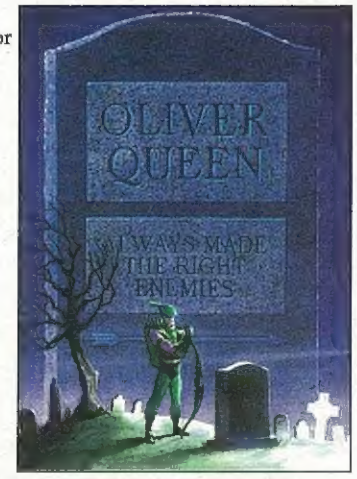
Green Arrow #16

Brad Meltzer (W); Phil Hester & Ande Parks

(DC JUN020424 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Back when he was still alive the first time, Oliver Queen made plans that were to be carried out in the event of his death. Well, for perhaps the first time in history, the deceased-turned-undeceased gets to find out how well his last wishes were carried out!



Why Should You Care?

Kevin Smith has crossed paths with a ***Black Cat,*** but DC has found a more-than-able successor: ***New York Times*** best-selling author Brad Meltzer, long-time comics fan, takes charge of Ollie's future with this issue... and just wait until you see what he has in the works!

Jason & the Argobots #1

J. Torres (W); Mike Norton (A)

(Oni JUN022435 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

A young boy named Jason adds the ultimate toy to his collection: a giant robot that he found in a crevasse near his desert home. But the boy soon learns that having your very own giant robot doesn't mean your troubles are over... but his robot might be the earth's last hope!

Why Should You Care?

J. Torres continues is adept at finding the human angle in his high-concept storylines, and ***Jason & The Argobots*** is no exception. The big robot might attract your attention, but it's the kid who'll keep you coming back.

Aquaman, Aquaman... Does Whatever an Aqua Can!

JLA #69

Joe Kelly (W); Doug Mahnke & Tom Nguyen (A)

(DC JUN020434 $2.25; also available in a signed edition (JUN022271 $14.99))

JLA #70

Joe Kelly (W); Yvel Guichet & Mark Propst (A)

(DC JUN020435 $2.25)

What's the Scoop?

For more than a year now, Aquaman has been presumed dead, an apparent victim of Worlds at War—but the Atlantean King makes a heroic return in "The Obsidian Age," a seven-part storyline beginning this month. But there's more to this than the return of a long-lost hero; before "The Obsidian Age" is over, you'll see a revamped JLA lineup and learn the truth about the Ancients (who first appeared in ***JLA #s 66-67***).

Why Should You Care?

Nothing like death to breathe new life into a veteran hero!...

Lady Death: The Mourning #1

John Ostrander (W); Ivan Reis & Joe Pimentel (A)

(Chaos! JUN022118 $2.99; also available in a premium edition (JUN022120 $9.99))

What's the Scoop?

Lady Death finds social relevance? Is nothing sacred? Okay, maybe that's not quite the right question—but this series does venture in a new direction as Lady Death confronts two killers—a depraved serial murderer and the other, the AIDS virus. Before it's over, Lady Death will learn whether hate and prejudice transcends the grave.

Why Should You Care?
If you've pigeonholed Chaos! as just a pneumatic-bustline splatterpunk series, you might be pleasantly surprised with the more serious storylines that writers like John Ostrander and Brian Augustyn have introduced in recent months.

Lucifer: Nirvana

Mike Carey (W); Jon J Muth (A)
(Vertigo/DC JUN020484 $5.95)

What's the Scoop?
Who'd put out a contract on the devil himself? A beautiful angel with a really ugly grudge, that's who...

Why Should You Care?
Sharply written and filled with complex characters set against a darkly metaphysical backdrop, Mike Carey's *Lucifer* has been a sleeper hit for Vertigo; this standalone *Lucifer* one-shot, featuring amazing painted art by Jon J Muth, should awaken the sleeper!

Red Star Annual #1

Christian Gossett, Bradley Kayl, & Snakebite (W/A)
(Archangel JUN022011 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?
At last, the origin of Makita is revealed in this first-ever ***Red Star Annual***—and it just might be the only Red Star saga ever self-published under the Archangel imprint, since Red Star is jumping to CrossGen this fall!

Why Should You Care?
With all nine issues of ***Red Star*** available in trade paperback in August, this ***Annual*** offers readers a perfect opportunity to sample this fascinating alternate-history fantasy setting—and once you discover what you've been missing, you can read the whole story in two volumes and join the rest of us who are eagerly awaiting ***Red Star #10!***

Spider-Man/ Daredevil #1

Brett Matthews (W); Vatche Mavlian (A)
(Marvel JUN021748 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
It's a day in the life of two of Marvel's highest-profile heroes as told by ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** screenwriter Brett Matthews—and just wait until you see the the first Marvel work from hot new art find Vatche Mavlian!

Why Should You Care?
Let's see... Spider-Man was the star of *this* summer's big film... Daredevil's the star of *next* summer's big film... and this standalone oneshot offers an insightful look at the lives of both heroes, as told by a veteran screenwriter? *Hmm...*

Spider: Scavengers of Slaughtered Sacrifices TP

Don McGregor (W); Gene Colan (A)
(Vanguard JUN022533I $14.95)

What's the Scoop?
Richard Wentworth leaps into the 21st Century in this graphic novel by Silver Age veterans McGregor and Colan. This updated version of the Spider is on the trail of a killer who is turning television and film murders into bloody reality.

Why Should You Care?
Two acclaimed creators. One classic pulp hero. A hard-edged action-packed media-inspired adventure. Guess the Gene Colan-Neal Adams cover is pure lagniappe...

Three Fingers GN

Rich Koslowski (W/A)
(Top Shelf JUN022520 $14.95)

What's the Scoop?
Part Ken Burns, part E! Entertainment Television, ***Three Fingers*** is a look behind the scenes of the cartoon industry—but it's the real stories of the *characters*, not the *creators*, that Koslowski investigates in this animation mockumentary.

Why Should You Care?
Koslowski has built his reputation on fannish *3 Geeks* humor—but this brilliant graphic novel is the work of a creator who refuses to be cubbyholed.

Retro Thunder

Thundercats #0

J. Scott Campbell & Ford Lytle Gilmore (W); J. Scott Campbell (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUN020463 $2.50; also available in a signed edition (JUN022275 $19.99))

Thundercats: Reclaiming Thundera #1

Ford Lytle Gilmore (W); Ed McGuinness & Jason Martin (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUN020464 $2.95; also available in a signed edition (JUN022276 $19.99))

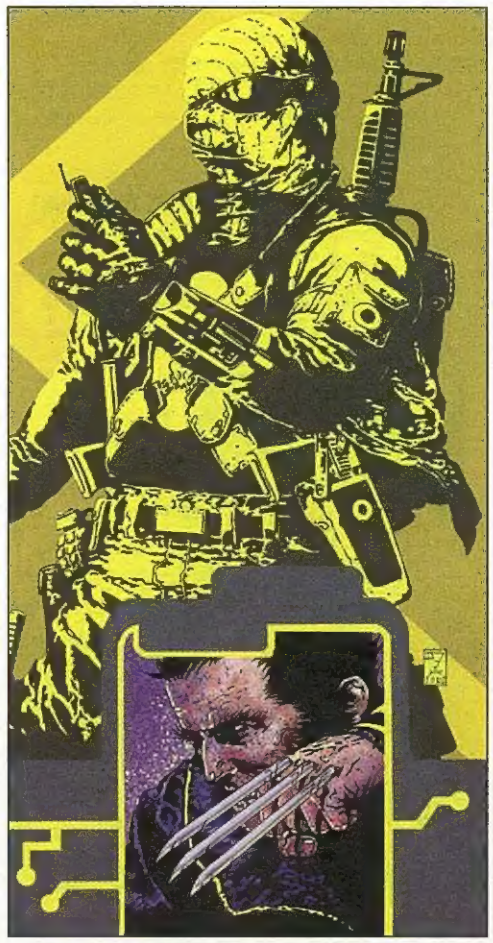
What's the Scoop?
The 1980s revival continues with the return of the Thundercats. WildStorm's one-two retro punch leads off with a zero issue featuring a story co-written and illustrated by fan-fave J. Scott Campbell, then follows through with a story illustrated by Ed McGuinness that picks up where the popular cartoon left off.

Why Should You Care?
Most other 80s revivals only feature the work of fan-fave artists on the covers, with up-and-coming talents filling out the interiors—but WildStorm has enlisted the A-team to do the interior honors, too! The result is a book you can enjoy even if you don't get misty-eyed reminiscing about the original *Thundercats*.

X-tra! X-tra! Read All About It!

Weapon X: Agent Zero #1

Frank Tieri (W); Killian Plunkett & Terry Austin (A)
(Marvel JUN021704 $2.25)



Weapon X: Kane #1

R.A. Jones (W); Pablo Raimondi (A)
(Marvel JUN021703 $2.25)

Weapon X: Marrow #1

Christina Z (W); Brandon Badeaux & David Newbold (A)
(Marvel JUN021702 $2.25)

Weapon X: Sauron #1

Buddy Scalera (W); Karl Kerschl (A)
(Marvel JUN021701 $2.25)

Weapon X: Wild Child #1

Matt Nixon (W); Ethan Van Sciver & Norm Rapmund (A)
(Marvel JUN021700 $2.25; also available in a signed edition (JUN021927 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?
Weapon X is on a search for new members—and as these five one-shots demonstrate, they're open to some very diverse potential members! Who'll make the cut? Who won't? Find out in these five books!

Why Should You Care?
What happens here will pave the way for next month's ***Weapon X*** ongoing series, so you can think of these as issues zero-times-five!

Born to be Wild

Wildcats Version 3.0 #1

Joe Casey (W); Dustin Nguyen & Richard Friend (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUN020465 $2.95)

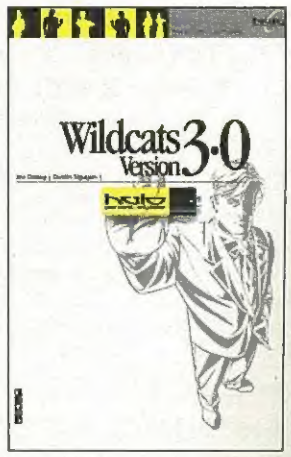
Jack Marlowe's plans for the Halo Corporation finally come to light - plans involving both old and new members of the Wildcats cast scattered all across the globe

Point Blank #1

Ed Brubaker (W); Colin Wilson (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUN020460 $2.95)

Have you ever had something on the edge of your thoughts but couldn't recall it? That's the problem facing Cole Cash - a.k.a. Grifter of the WildCats.

What's the Scoop?
The WildCats are back... but this isn't the covert action team you first met a decade ago. No, *these* WildCats are very open about their actions... and their exploits, set against the complex backdrop of corporate machinations and multinational scheming, seem particularly appropriate in today's Enron-ImClone-WorldCom world. This ain't the ***Wall Street Journal,*** though, so you can expect plenty of action, too! Meanwhile, two veterans with their own WildCats history—Cole Cash, aka Grifter, and John Lynch—are caught up in a potentially deadly game of cat and mouse in ***Point Blank,*** a noir thriller that leads into this fall's ongoing series ***Sleeper***.



Why Should You Care?
WildCats, relegated to a corner of the WildStormverse in recent months, moves front and center with these two edgy mature-readers titles.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

American Splendor: Unsung Hero #1

(Dark Horse/Maverick JUN020015 $3.99)

Most people think of Harvey Pekar as the guy who talks about himself—but in ***American Splendor: Unsung Hero,*** Pekar uses his skill for finding distinction in the most normal life to tell the story of Robert McNeill, a young man whose Vietnam era experiences will resonate with many who lived through the turbulent time... and they'll make today's potential soldiers wonder just how much history repeats itself...

Kolchak, The Night Stalker: Get of Belial GN

(Moonstone JUN022415 $6.95)

It's not quite the same as a new episode of this classic television series, but almost... ***Get of Belial*** is a comic book adaptation of a "lost" TV episode script. Yep, it's an adaptation of an episode they forgot to make—complete with all the quirkiness that made ***Kolchak*** an ***X-Files/Buffy*** level fan-fave almost three decades ago.

Satyr #1

(SatyrPlay JUN022474 $2.95)

What Larry Gonick did for ancient history, Mike Indovina is doing for classical Greek literature and mythology. With witty, sometimes irreverent storylines, Indovina touches on Greek myths and early drama. This isn't some sort of dry quasi-***Classics Illustrated,*** though; Indovina constructs stories that entertain on their own, even if

you don't know diddly about the literature that inspired them.

Collected Cool!
August's Fantastic Five

Absolute Authority Vol 1 Oversized HC
(WildStorm/DC MAR020415 $49.95; also available in a signed edition (MAR022195 $89.99) and a remarked edition (MAR022196 $199.99))

These are the twelve core stories that reinvented the superteam for the 90s, all presented in a deluxe oversized format complete with behind-the-scenes info, script pages, supplementary art, and more, packaged in a deluxe slipcased hardcover edition. Primo packaging for primo comics!

Herobear and the Kid Vol 1 HC
(Astonish JUN022029 $49.95)

Mike Kunkel's charmingly irresistible story of childhood alienation and escape is the archetypal pre-adolescent escape fantasy—but no one has ever told this sort of story with such panache. Add to that the Kunkel art style, best described as animation frozen in print, and you have one of the most memorable new series in years, presented in a deluxe hardcover that deserves a place on any fan's bookshelf.

Powers Vol 3: Little Deaths TP
(Image JUN021407 $24.95)

This is an edgier, harsher Brian Bendis than you'll find in the pages of Ultimate Spider-Man—but his storytelling is every bit as sharp here. Bendis and Oeming collect the third Powers story arc, along with various stand-alone tales and supplemental materials, in a must-have third trade paperback. Warren Ellis alert: fans won't want to miss "Ride Along," the story that casts Ellis as a character accompanying the Powers detectives on a typical night on the job.

Red Star Vol 2: Nokgorka TP
(Archangel JUN022010 $24.95)

Team Red Star started the trend towards oversized compilation books with their first ***Red Star*** trade paperback; this second volume continues the trend with an oversized collection of ***Red Star #s 5-9***, allowing you to appreciate the stunning art in even greater detail. Don't get too captivated by the pretty pictures, though—the story's epic in scope, too!

Ultimate X-Men HC Vol 1
(Marvel MAY021529 $34.99)

Marvel set sales records with their 300+ page ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** oversized hardcover; now they're back with another hefty volume reprinting the first year's worth of Ultimate X-Men stories. And when you consider that for this price, you get all the material included in the first two ***Ultimate X-Men*** trade paperbacks, printed 15% larger and on even better paper than the original comics, this is actually quite a bargain!

Other Noteworthy TPBs and HC's for August

3 X 3 EYES: SUMMONING OF THE BEAST TP 8/14 Dark Horse MAY020060V3 $14.95

After living as a human with no recollection of her three-hundred plus years in a mystical Tibetan kingdom, Pai's supernatural powers have returned, but not her memories

ACG HEROES TP ACG JUN021966 $10.95

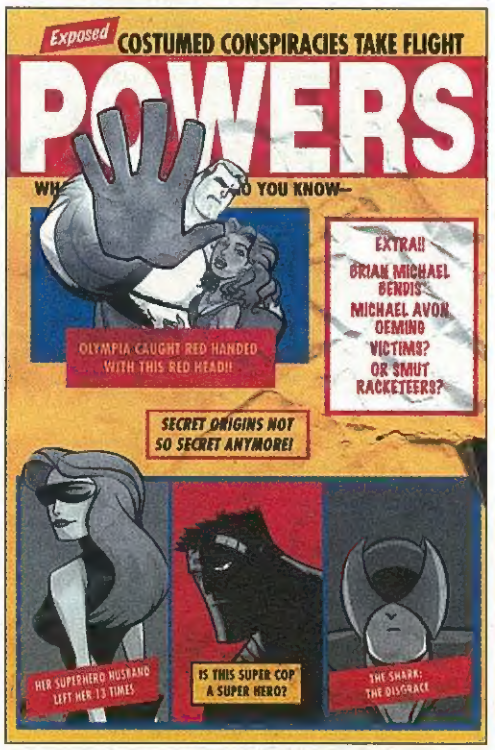
A special collection of adventure stories including Charlton's Fighting Five and ACG's Nemesis and Magicman

ANCIENT JOE TP 8/7 Maverick/Dark Horse MAY020024V3 $12.95

Reprinting the three-issue series by Scott Morse, along with stories from Dark Horse Maverick 2000, Scatterbrain, and Loud Cannoli

ARSENIC LULLABY TP: DEVIL'S HAT TRICK AAA JUN021948 $18.95

All of the darkest stories from the first three years of Arsenic Lullaby in one 204-page volume


Exposed
COSTUMED CONSPIRACIES TAKE FLIGHT
POWERS
EXTRA!!
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS'
MICHAEL AVON OEMING
VICTIMS? OR SMUT RACKETEERS?
OLYMPIA CAUGHT RED HANDED WITH THIS RED HEAD!!
SECRET ORIGINS NOT SO SECRET ANYMORE!
HER SUPERHERO HUSBAND LEFT HER 13 TIMES
IS THIS SUPER COP A SUPER HERO?
THE SHARK: THE DISGRACE

ASTRO BOY VOL 6 8/28 Dark Horse MAY020061V3 $9.95

A collision with an alien spacecraft sends Astro and the craft's female pilot fifty years into Earth's past, a past before robots - not to mention aliens! Astro must find a way back to his present - our future - before he runs out of power

ATOMICS DELUXE LIMITED EDITION VOL 1 HC AAA Pop JUN021949I $99.95

This enormous limited edition hardcover collection of Mike and Laura Allred's The Atomics comes signed, numbered, and personalized! Limited to 500 copies

BACCHUS COLLECTED VOL 7 & 8: EYEBALL KID DOUBLE BILL TP Eddie Campbell JUN022277 $16.95

The final volume in the Bacchus series is here at last! This one gathers Books 7 & 8 together in one 160-page package

BLACK HEART BILLY TP AiT/PlanetLar JUN021974 $12.95

Reprinting the irreverent skate-punk saga by Kierwon Dwyer and Rick Remender

BLOOD SONG: A SILENT BALLAD GN Harcourt Brace JUN022351 $20.00

Eric Drooker's inspiring story told in pictures, of three generations unified by hope, promise, and a belief in creative expression

BONE VOL 8: TREASURE HUNTERS HC Cartoon Books JUN022116 $23.95

The evil Hooded One surrounds the walled city of Atheia and offers the trapped citizens two choices: 'Surrender or Die!'

CATWOMAN: THE DARK END OF THE STREET TP 8/7 DC JUN020406 $12.95

Collecting the first four issues of the hit CATWOMAN series, plus the lead-in backup tales from Detective #s 759-762

COMPLETE JACK KIRBY VOL 4: 1947 LIMITED HC Pure Imagination JUN022459 $40.00

Featuring two hundred pages of rarely-seen Jack Kirby material from the 1940s, including Kirby's work on his first love comic, My Date

COMPLETE JACK KIRBY VOL 4: 1947 TP Pure Imagination JUN022460 $25.00

CORRECTOR YUI VOL 5 PKT TP Tokyopop UN022506 $9.99

Although she found all eight Corrector Programs, Yui must still face the fearsome CPU Grosser. To make matters worse, her best friend Haruna has been turned to the dark side

DAEMONIFUGE HC Black Library JUN022088 $19.95

An oversized hardcover graphic novel of the award-winning Daemonifuge mini-series by Kev Walker

DAREDEVIL: UNDERBOSS TP 8/28 Marvel MAY021539 $14.99

Reprinting the story of Mr. Silk's war with the Kingpin from Daredevil #s 26-31

EDGE #5 8/28 CrossGen JUN022178 $11.95

Reprinting Sigil, Mystic, Scion, Ruse, and The First

FORGE #5 8/14 CrossGen JUN022173 $11.95

Reprinting Sojourn, Negation, Meridian, Crux, and The Path

FOUR WOMEN TP 8/14 Vertigo/DC JUN020469 $17.95

Collecting all five issues of Sam Kieth's acclaimed miniseries by Sam Kieth

G.I. JOE VOL 3 TP 8/21 Marvel MAY021537 $24.99

Reprinting Marvel's Gi Joe #s 21-30 from the 1980s, including the acclaimed "Silent Interlude"

GLOOM COOKIE VOL 2 TP Amaze Ink JUN021985 $16.95

Collecting issues 7-12 of the popular gothic soap-opera series

GUNFIGHTERS IN HELL ORIGINAL SIN TP Broken Halos JUN022106 $7.95

Compiling the dark Western series by David Barbour and Joe Vigil

HOUSE AT MAAKIE'S CORNER HC Fantagraphics JUN022303 $19.95

Tony Millionaire's Maakies is one of the most popular weekly comic strips in America, running in over ten of the largest U.S. weekly newspapers

HOUSE OF JAVA VOL 2 HC NBM JUN022420 $15.95

Collects issues #1-4 of this acclaimed character-driven series

JESSE JAMES HC Vanguard JUN022531I $27.95

America's #1 outlaw, Jesse James rides into action in this reprint volume featuring the 1950s stories by Joe Kubert and Carmine Infantino

JESSE JAMES HC DELUXE LIMITED SIGNED EDITION Vanguard JUN022532I $39.95

Signed by both Infantino and Kubert

JETCAT CLUBHOUSE TP 8/21 Oni JUN022436 $10.95

Reprinting Jay Stephens' delightful all-ages Jetcat Clubhouse stories

LEFT BEHIND GN COLLECTION Tyndale House JUN022528 $14.99

Compiling the five prestige-format books in one large volume

LEGION OF SUPER HEROES: THE GREAT DARKNESS SAGA TP 8/14 DC JUN020441 $14.95

One of the greatest storylines in the Legion's history is collected in this new edition

LONE WOLF & CUB VOL 24: IN THESE SMALL HANDS TP 8/28 Dark Horse MAY020065V3 $9.95

Continuing the comprehensive reprinting of the entire 7500+ page saga of samurai and bushido

LOVE HINA VOL 5 GN Tokyopop JUN022509 $9.99

The whole gang from Hinata House takes a trip to the beach for a summer of fun in the sun. For many, a seaside vacation is the perfect place to find romance, but perennial loser Keitaro is still feeling his dream girl Naru's scorn

LUCIFER VOL 3: A DALLIANCE WITH THE DAMNED TP 8/14 Vertigo/DC JUN020485 $14.95

This 160-page collection reprints Lucifer #14-20

MARTIAN SUCCESSOR NADESICO BOOK 4 CPM JUN022162 $15.95

The hapless crew of the Nadesico is caught between the powerful Earth Federation forces and the mysterious Jupiterians

MD GEIST COMPLETE EDITION TP CPM JUN022163 $15.95

Amidst the turmoil of a future devastated by war, a new type of hero emerges on a quest for vengeance and violence. Geist, born in the government laboratories of Earth, hungers for battle and power, and no authority can stop him

METABARONS VOL 3 TP: POET AND KILLER Humanoids JUN022370 $11.95

Collects Metabarons #11-14

MYSTIC VOL 3 TP: SIEGE OF SCALES 8/21 CrossGen JUN022174 $15.95

The saga of Giselle Villard, reluctant hero of a magical world, continues in this volume collecting issues #15-20

PEACH GIRL VOL 6 PKT GN Tokyopop JUN022511 $9.99

Momo has just experienced the worst night of her life. Not only did Sae ruin her intimate evening with Toji, but her scheming arch-nemesis set her up with Goro, 'The Gigalo,' for a one night stand she never agreed to

OH MY GODDESS!: LEADER OF THE PACK TP 8/7 Dark Horse MAY020063V3 $13.95

This second of three "remastered" volumes restores the "lost" Oh My Goddess! stories and fills in early details of student Keiichi Morisato's life with the beautiful Belldandy, a live-in, literal goddess

ONE HUNDRED DEMONS HC PGW JUN022742I $24.96

Reprinting Lynda Barry's autobiographical strips from Salon.com's popular 'Mothers Who Think' section

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE VOL 1 TP 8/21 Marvel MAY021538 $15.99

Collecting Punisher: War Zone #s 1-6 by Chuck Dixon and John Romita Jr.

RESIDENT EVIL: CODE VERONICA VOL 2 TP 8/7 WildStorm/DC JUN020461 $14.95

WildStorm Productions adapts the Hong Kong version of the Resident Evil comics into English

RISING STARS VOL 3: VISITATIONS TP 8/14 Image JUN021410 $8.99

"Collected together for the first time, the rare zero issue with an additional 6 page story illustrated by Gary Frank, the limited 1/2 issue, and the very first Rising Stars Preview issue

SERAPHIC FEATHER: SEEDS OF CHAOS TP 8/21 Dark Horse MAY020066V3 $17.95

The moon, where an alien starship lies ready to give up its secrets, becomes a deadly battleground for possession of the Emblem Seeds, the key to harnessing the technology's incredible powe

SEVEN PEACHES TP: FIRST SEVEN DESERT PEACH EPISODES A Fine Line JUN021946 $19.95

Reprinting Donna Barr's The Desert Peach #1-7

SPARKS: URBAN FAIRY TALE GN Amaze Ink JUN021988 $35.95

Lawrence Marvit's series is presented in the graphic novel format; contains all five original issues, plus 170 pages of all-new, unpublished material

SPIRIT ARCHIVES VOL 8 HC 8/14 DC JUN020451 $49.95

Reprinting the newspaper Spirit sections from January to July, 1944; plus, a 4-page portfolio of Eisner's work done for the U.S. Army

STAR WARS: DARKNESS TP 8/7 Dark Horse MAY020070V3 $12.95

Collecting the four-part story ac by John Ostrander, Jan Duursema, and Ray Kryssing

SUPERMAN: OUR WORLDS AT WAR VOL 1 TP 8/7 DC JUN020418 $19.95

Last years epic is reprinted in two volumes; Volume One finds Imperiex in its first strike, as Superman and the mightiest heroes of the DC Universe are overwhelmed, and the planet is ravaged with fire and destruction

SUPERMAN: OUR WORLDS AT WAR VOL 2 TP 8/21 DC JUN020419 $19.95

Last year's epic is reprinted in two volumes; Volume Two shows the war going badly for Superman and his allies. As the heroes of the world attempt to turn the tide to their favor, Brainiac 13 secretly enters the war

TRANSFORMERS: TARGET 2006 GN Titan JUN022497 $19.99

Reprinting stories previously unavailable in the US

ULTIMATE MARVEL TEAM UP HC 8/7 Marvel JUN021769 $39.99

Collecting Ultimate Marvel Team-Up #1 - #16 and the Ultimate Spider-Man Special — plus all sorts of cool, behind-the-scenes extras — in an oversized hardcover

ULTIMATES VOL 1 TP 8/28 Marvel MAY021540 $12.99

Collecting the first six issues of The Ultimates in one convenient volume

VAMPI VOL 2 HC: UNDERWORLD/TAINTED LOVE Anarchy JUN021997I $24.95

Reprinting Vampi #7-12

WHERE'S IT AT, SUGAR KAT? TP Amaze Ink JUN021980 $12.95

Collecting the mini series starring Sugar Kat, the most popular girl in the world, and her overachieving sister Rebecca; also features unpublished material

WOLVERINE: THE BEST THERE IS TP 8/7 Marvel MAY021535 $12.99

Reprinting Wolverine #s 159-161

X 1999 VOL 8: CRESCENDO TP Viz JUN022576 $15.95

Three mysterious men arrive at Fûma and Kotori's house and announce themselves as the directors of CLAMP Academy, a school designed for the express purpose of protecting the second sacred sword until 'The Day To Come'

Hot Commodities! August's Hottest Merchandising/ Collectibles

Toys With Authority

AUTHORITY: APOLLO ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB020650 $19.95)

AUTHORITY: JENNY SPARKS ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB020656 $19.95)

AUTHORITY: MIDNIGHTER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB020652 $19.95)

AUTHORITY: THE ENGINEER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB020654 $19.95)

Now here are four figures you'll *never* see in your local WeeBeeToys! The iconoclastic heroes of the Authority add a new—third—dimension, thanks to the folks at DC Direct. Grab 'em while you can get 'em—recent DC Direct action figures have been selling out in short order, and odds are the demand for these toys has been *severely* underestimated!

ULTIMATE COLOSSUS BUST

(Diamond Select JUN021920 $55.00; available in a special edition, featuring a certificate/miniprint hand-signed by Adam Kubert and sculptor Rudy Garcia (JUN021921 $75.00))

Randy Bowen may get the credit for creating the superhero minibust phenomenon, but it's the gang at Diamond Select who have taken minibusts to the next level. Their dynamic, realistically sculpted, dynamically posed, meticulously painted busts capture the characters with amazing skill. In less than a year, Diamond Select has set the standards that every other manufacturer struggles to match.

JUSTICE LEAGUE ANIMATED GREEN LANTERN JOHN STEWART MAQUETTE

(DC Direct MAR020458 $89.95)

And speaking of selling out... just try to find one of the first three JLA Animated maquettes and you know why we're recommending that you latch onto the Green Lantern Maquette as soon as you see it in your local comic shop—because you may not get a second chance!

Other Noteworthy Collectibles for August

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN THE RAIN ACETATE CEL DF JUN022247I $40.00

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN THE RAIN ACETATE CEL SIGNED DF JUN022248I $89.99

Collaborative effort by John Romita Jr. and Sr.

ASHLEIGH LIMITED EDITION RESIN STATUE CrossGen JUN022183I $89.99

The gorgeous Raven princess, Ashleigh, from the hit CrossGen Comics series Scion, comes dramatically to life as a resin statue sculpted by Vincenzo Cucca and Ciro Vignes

AVENGERS CLASSIC LITHOGRAPH DF JUN022240I $24.99

Alex Ross paints this drawing of the Avengers done by the late, great John Buscema"

AVENGERS CLASSIC LITHOGRAPH SIGNED DF JUN022241I $49.99

AVENGERS CLASSIC LITHOGRAPH SIGNED & FRAMED DF JUN022242I $475.00

BATMAN DARK VICTORY SIGNATURE SERIES PRINT BY TIM SALE 8/14 DC Direct MAR020452 $99.95

This print, showcasing Sale's unique rendition of the Dark Knight and his young sidekick Robin, features new background art by the artist, is double-matted, numbered, and includes a certificate of authenticity and a signature card

BATTLE OF THE PLANETS MARK LITHOGRAPH DF JUN022244I $19.99

Fully painted lithograph by Alex Ross

BATTLE OF THE PLANETS MARK LITHOGRAPH SIGNED DF JUN022245I $49.99

CLASSIC COMIC CHARACTERS #34: THE SPIRIT STATUE 8/7 Dark Horse JUN020046H3 $49.95

Yoe Studios presents a syrocco-styled sculpt of Will Eisner's hero, packaged in a full-color tin box with pin-back button and booklet

DINOBOTS VS DEVASTATOR LITHOGRAPH Dreamwave JUN022235 $19.95

GLORIA GLAD TEENY WEENY MINI-MAQUETTE 8/28 JUN023230I $45.00

Gloria Glad, Richie Rich's best girlfriend who loves Richie not for his wealth but for his heart of gold, is featured in this animation-style maquette designed by Tracy Mark Lee and sculpted by Jim McPherson

GOLDEN AGE DR FATE BY ALEX ROSS POSTER 8/28 DC Direct MAR020449 $7.95

22" x 34" poster features Nelson Kent's alter ego

GOLDEN AGE SPECTRE BY ALEX ROSS POSTER 8/28 DC Direct MAR020450 $7.95

22" x 34" poseter featuring the cadaverous Jim Corrigan in his spirit of vengeance identity

GREEN LANTERN: GUARDIAN GANTHET STATUE 8/28 DC Direct MAR020453 $49.95

Sam Greenwell sculpts this 4" tall figure depicting one of tthe most famous of the Oan Guardians

HEROBEAR & THE KID: BEST FRIENDS MAQUETTE 8/28 Electric Tiki JUN023226I $59.00

The first officially licensed maquette based on Mike Kunkel's hit comic HeroBear & The Kid; this 7' tall 'Best Friends' maquette features Tyler climbing on HeroBear's cape as it magically swirls around the comic logo

ICEMAN MINI-BUST 8/28 Bowen Designs JUN023233I $40.00

Here's a 5 1/2' tall mini-bust of the cool hero sculpted by Randy Bowen

IRON MAN MINI-STATUE SET 8/28 Bowen Designs JUN023231I $80.00

Bowen Designs serves up this pair of 7' tall statues, representing the 'Classic' versio and the 'Retro' version

JADE BUST 8/28 Chaos! JUN023224 $45.00

Sculpted by Andy Bergholtz, this 7' tall bust of the popular Chaos character includes a hand-numbered full-color Certificate of Authenticity

MYSTERIO MINI BUST 8/28 Bowen Designs JUN023228I $40.00

Spider-Man's globe-headed enemy is featured in this Randy Bowen sculpture

ORIGIN GICLEE REMARKED #3 DF JUN022259I

The third in a series of six fine art, high-end giclees featuring the six magnificent Origin covers by artist Joe Quesada and colorist Richard Isanove

ORIGIN GICLEE SIGNED #3 DF JUN022258I $599.99

SANDMAN MORPHEUS POSTER 8/28 DC Direct MAR020466 $7.95

Featuring a lost image by Michael Zulli, now available as a 24" x 36" poster

It's a day in the life of two of Marvel's most popular heroes in a self-contained one-shot by writer Brett Matthews (Buffy the Vampire Slayer) and hot new artist Vatche Mavlian

SILVER AGE SUPERGIRL AND SUPERBOY DELUXE ACTION FIGURE SET 8/7 DC Direct FEB020662 $49.95

Two-figure set features four figures, actually, since it also includes Krypto and Streaky... and they're both articulated, too!

SPECTRE STATUE 8/14 DC Direct MAR020467 $195.00

Hand-painted, cold-cast porcelain statue measuring approximately 11 1/2" tall x 8 1/2" wide x 6 1/4" deep, packaged in a 4-color box.

SPIDER-MAN: BATTLES THE GREEN GOBLIN GICLEE SIGNED DF JUN022256I $699.99

Fully painted by Alex Ross

SPIDER-MAN: ENTER THE GREEN GOBLIN GICLEE SIGNED DF JUN022255I $699.99

TRANSFORMERS: MEGATRON GROUP POSTER Dreamwave JUN022233 $6.95

TRANSFORMERS: OPTIMUS PRIME GROUP POSTER Dreamwave JUN022234 $6.95

WONDER WOMAN POSTER 8/28 DC Direct MAR020471 $7.95

Featuring profile page art from Wonder Woman Secret Files #2 by Phil Jimenez

X-MEN: EVOLUTION—PROFESSOR X MAQUETTE 8/28 Hard Hero JUN023232I $125.00

Third in the X-Men Evolution Maquette Series, Professor X comes fully painted and ready for display, including his highly detailed wheelchair

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

I'VE GOTTA LIVE WITH THIS GUY TP 8/14 TwoMorrows JUN022611 $19.95

This trade paperback explores the lives of the partners & wives of Will Eisner, Alan Moore, Stan Lee, Joe Kubert, Harvey Kurtzman, John Romita, Gene Colan, Dan DeCarlo, Dick Ayers, Archie Goodwin, Ric Estrada, Dave Sim, Howard Cruse, & others

JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR #36 8/21 TwoMorrows JUN022612 $9.95

TJKC celebrates the 40th anniversary of Thor

TOTAL BONEHEAD'S HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR OWN COMICS TP 404Media JUN022735 $5.25

Concise guide to self-publishing for those of you who are convinced you're ready to publish the Great American Comic Book

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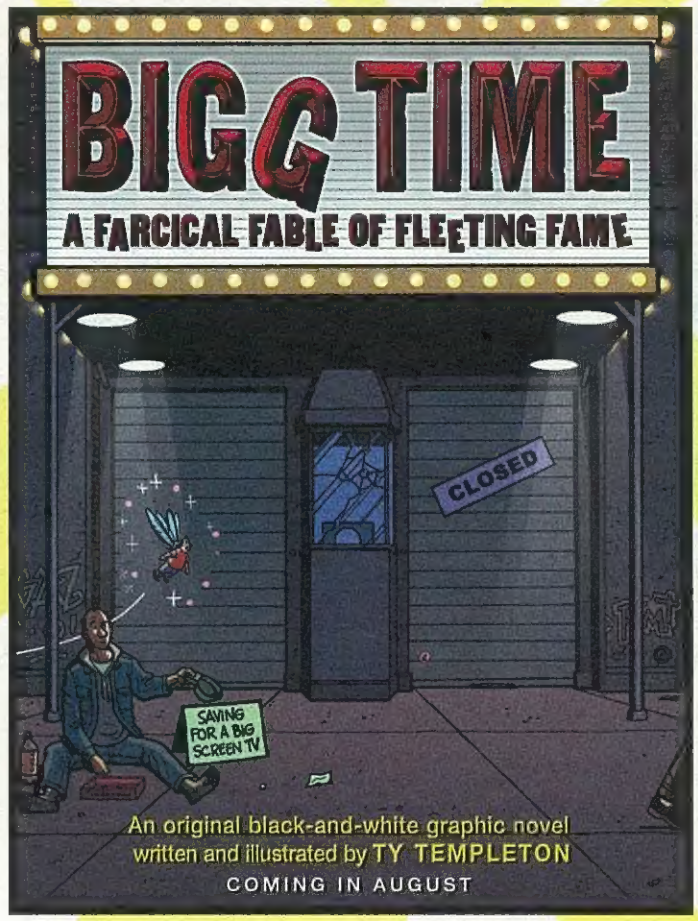
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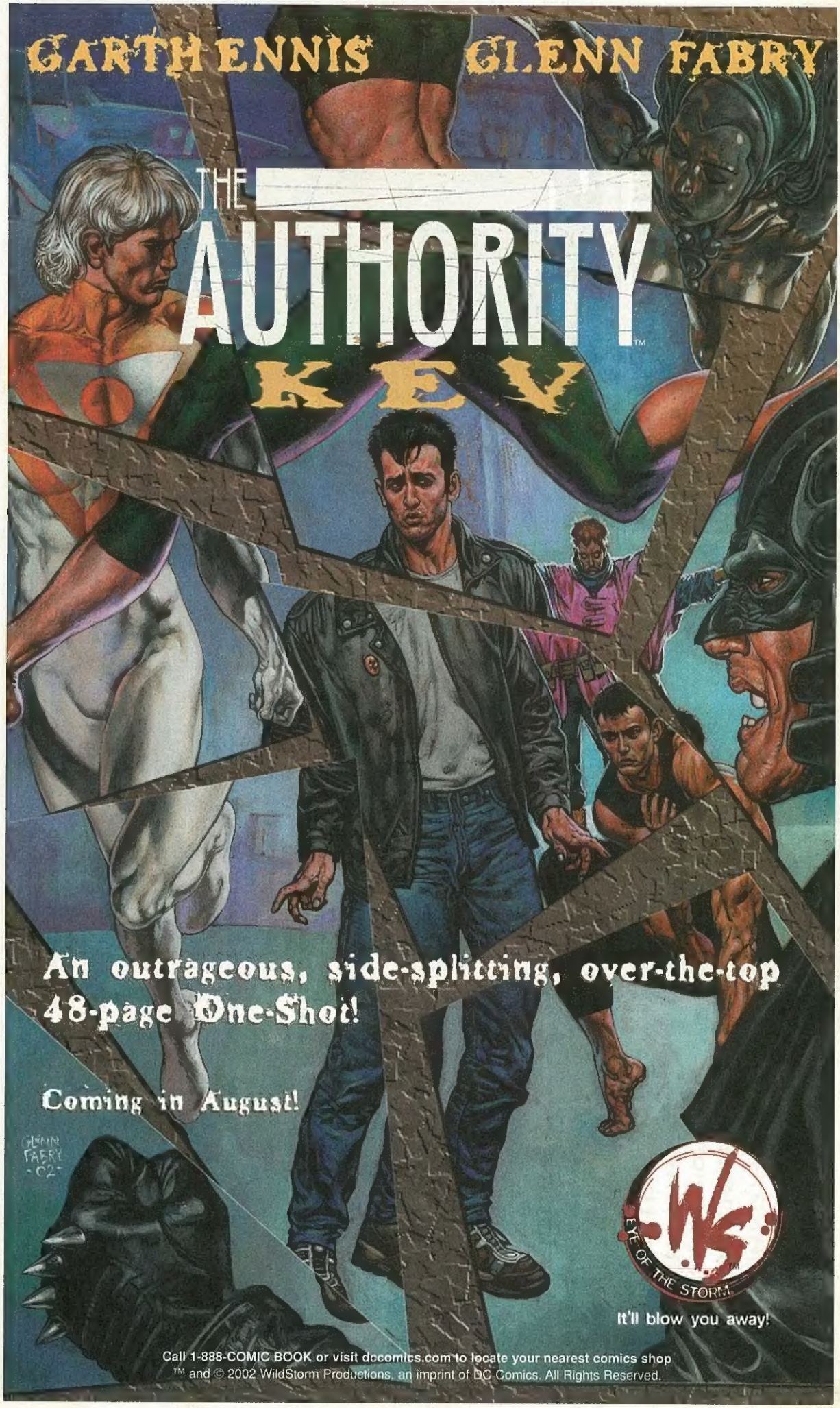
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